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LETTER DATED 23 JANUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you herewith a facsimile of a circular note issued on 22 January 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and it annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Circular note dated 22 January 1995

The Government of the Republic of Armenia is compelled to invite the attention of the international community, especially the United Nations Security Council, the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE) and the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group of the Minsk Conference to actions taken by the Government of Azerbaijan that constitute serious violations of the letter and spirit of cease-fire agreements in the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

The Government of Armenia expresses deep concern regarding the following developments, based on information from Defence Ministry sources of Nagorny Karabakh and Armenia.

1. During the past 20 days there has been an intensification of military activities along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and the front line. These include:

(a) Deployment of new military units along the front line;

(b) Rearrangement of the Azerbaijani artillery;

(c) Redeployment of four Azerbaijani regiments from Nakhichevan to the Horadiz front;

(d) Increasing incidents of sniping by Azerbaijani soldiers, as a result of which 10 Armenian soldiers have been killed or wounded during the past 20 days.

The Ministry of Defence of Armenia has regularly contacted the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan to express our concerns regarding this new build-up and to warn of the dangers inherent in the situation, without any results.

2. The military activities have been accompanied by what could be interpreted as preparatory propaganda, including:

(a) Repeated and unfounded charges by Azerbaijani authorities of cease-fire violations on the part of Armenian forces;

(b) The 20 January 1995 warlike speech by President H. Aliyev of Azerbaijan, which seems to be preparing his country for an offensive.

This new wave of propaganda can only create a war atmosphere in Azerbaijan, reminiscent of similar propaganda campaigns preceding Azerbaijani offensives in the past.

3. At 11.45 a.m. on 22 January, the pipeline carrying natural gas to Armenia and passing through Georgia was once more blown up in a section about 5 kilometres from the Georgian-Azerbaijani border.

The Government of Armenia holds the Government of Azerbaijan responsible for this renewed act of international terrorism and has repeatedly warned Azerbaijan regarding such brinkmanship. Armenia has also informed all concerned of the Azerbaijani violations of the cease-fire and their consequences.

The Government of Armenia regrets that the international community failed to take appropriate measures following the warning which President Levon Ter-Petrossian issued at the Budapest Summit in December 1994 concerning such acts of war, which threaten the vital interests of Armenia.

At no time since May 1994, when the first cease-fire agreement went into effect, has there been such danger of renewal of military hostilities. The Government of Armenia awaits action by the international community to diffuse the tension created by Azerbaijan in order to preserve the fragile yet precious cease-fire and make possible the next phase of negotiations.

Reaffirming their commitment to the cease-fire, Armenia and Nagorny Karabakh also express their continuing determination to refrain from verbal warfare and, therefore, will not use the above facts in a propagandistic manner which may result in a negative public reaction.